



Federal Emergency Management Agency

Kenneth O. Burris, Jr: Chief Operating Officer, United States Fire Administration

Kenneth O. Burris was selected as the first Chief Operating Officer of the U.S. Fire Administration by FEMA Director James Lee Witt in September 1999. Burris oversees the day-to-day operations of the U.S. Fire Administration, including the National Fire Academy, and serves as the primary advisor to the FEMA Director and the USFA Administrator on overall operations and management of the Fire Administration. This new position was established in response to recommendations of fire service organizations and focuses on bringing increased technical and practice fire expertise to USFA.

Before joining FEMA, Mr. Burris had served as a firefighter for more than 22 years, and had been the fire chief in Marietta, Georgia, since 1992. He is credited with applying innovative techniques and strong leadership to that department, which serves as a national model.

A native of Kansas City, Missouri, Burris holds a BS degree in Safety and Fire Protection Engineering Technology from the University of Cincinnati, where he graduated cum laude. He also holds a Masters of Public Administration at Kennesaw University.

Burris has held senior positions with the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs and the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and is a past president of the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs.

Updated: October 1999



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